

Amendment to the Claims

1-41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously presented) Apparatus which provides a dry environment around the eyes of the user comprising:

an eye enclosure adapted to provide an enclosed area simultaneously about both eyes of the user without obstructing vision through the enclosure;

means for retaining the eye enclosure in position; and

means for supplying dry air to the eye enclosure.

43. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 42 wherein the dry air will be air having a humidity of about 40% or less.

44. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 42 wherein the dry air is generated by passing the air through a container of a suitable desiccant or by passing the air across condensation coils.

45. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 42 wherein the dry air is pumped to the eye enclosure.

46. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 42 wherein the dry air provided to the eye enclosure is provided from a source of dry air and a source of wet air which are mixed such that a desired level of dryness can be achieved.

47. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 46 wherein the wet air is generated by passing the ambient air through water or a mixture of water and glycerol.

48. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 46 wherein the apparatus includes means for measuring the relative humidity of the mixed air present in, or supplied to, the enclosure, and means for adjusting the mixture so that the desired level of humidity may be achieved.

49. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 48 wherein the measurement means and the adjustment means allow the alteration of the humidity of the air supplied to the eye enclosure to be adjusted during operation.

50. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 48 wherein the wet and dry air is mixed in a mixing chamber before being supplied to the eye enclosure.

51. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 42 wherein the means for supplying dry air to the eye enclosure allows for substantially equal air flow to the region of each eye.

52. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 42 wherein the eye enclosure is a pair of goggles.

53. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 52, wherein the goggles have two chambers each to cover one eye.

54. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 52 wherein the goggles are made of plastics material.

55. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 42 wherein the apparatus is portable.

56. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 42 wherein the apparatus includes means for adjusting the temperature of the air which is present in, or supplied to, the eye enclosure.

57-71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously presented) Apparatus for use in testing an item to be applied to the eye comprising:

an eye enclosure adapted to provide an enclosed area simultaneously around both eyes of the user without obstructing vision through the enclosure;

means for retaining the eye enclosure in position; and

means for supplying air to the eye enclosure having an environment that is adjusted from the ambient humidity.

73. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 72 wherein the test item is contact lens, contact lens material, contact lens care products, eye care products or medicaments.

74. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 72 wherein the test item is eye drops for use in the treatment of dry eye syndrome.

75. (Previously presented) Apparatus for use in screening a patient comprising:
an eye enclosure adapted to provide an enclosed area simultaneously around both eyes of the user without obstructing vision through the enclosure;
means for retaining the eye enclosure in position; and
means for supplying air to the eye enclosure having a humidity that is adjusted from the ambient humidity.

76. (Previously presented) Apparatus for use in diagnosing ocular and/or systemic medical conditions comprising:
an eye enclosure adapted to provide an enclosed area simultaneously around both eyes of the user without obstructing vision through the enclosure;
means for retaining the eye enclosure in position; and
means for supplying air to the eye enclosure having a humidity that is adjusted from the ambient humidity.

77. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 76 wherein the ocular condition is dry eye symptoms.

78. (Previously presented) Apparatus for use in treating a patient suffering from symptoms of ocular and/or systemic medical condition comprising:

an eye enclosure adapted to provide an enclosed area a simultaneously around both eyes of the user without obstructing vision through the enclosure;

means for retaining the eye enclosure in position; and

means for supplying air to the eye enclosure having a humidity that is adjusted from the ambient humidity.

79. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 78 wherein the environment is adjusted from the ambient environment has one or more of an adjusted humidity, an adjusted temperature and the addition of a foreign body.

80. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 79 wherein the foreign body is pollen or pollutants.

81. (New) Apparatus which provides a moisture controlled environment around the eyes of the user comprising:

an eye enclosure adapted to provide an enclosed area simultaneously about both eyes of the user without obstructing vision through the enclosure;

a retainer for holding the eye enclosure in position;

a pump having a dual outlet;

a first container in communication a first of the outlets of the pump, the first container containing an air drying source for drying air in the first container;

a second container in fluid communication with a second of the outlets of the pump, the second container containing an air wetting source for adding moisture to air in the second container;

a mixing chamber fluidly connected to the first and second containers for receiving dried air from the first container and wetted air from the second container for mixing the dried air and the wetted air; and

tubing extending from the mixing chamber to the eye enclosure for delivering the mixed air to the eye enclosure.